

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STUTTG 01767 251411Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 MCT-01 ACDA-12 COME-00 CU-04 /076 W
-----125430 251439Z /45

R 251230Z OCT 77
FM AMCONSUL STUTTGART
TO AMEMBASSY BONN
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 3922
AMCONSUL BREMEN
AMCONSUL DUSSELDORF
AMCONSUL FRANKFURT
AMCONSUL HAMBURG
AMCONSUL MUNICH
USMISSION USBERLIN
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN
CINCUSAREUR HEIDELBERG
CINCUSAFE RAMSTEIN

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FOR POLADS

E. O. 11652: N/A
TAS: PINS GW
SUBJ: TERRORIST ISSUE DOMINATES LAND CDU CONGRESS

1. SUMMARY: AT OCTOBER 21-22 CDU LAND CONGRESS, REGULARLY
SCHEDULED AGENDA ITEMS PERFUNCTORILY CONSIDERED, AS PARTY
CLOSED RANKS AROUND MINISTER PRESIDENT FILBINGER DURING
PUBLIC CRITICISM OF TERRORIST SUICIDES AT STAMMHEIM. KOHL
AND NEWLY ELECTED DEPUTY LAND CHAIRMAN SPAETH RALLIED TO HIS
SIDE AND KOHL ADOPTED LINE THAT "OTHERS" (SPD/FDP) RESPON-
SIBLE FOR TERRORIST DEVELOPMENTS AND ADVOCATED STRONG MEA-
SURES (IN EFFECT, THE LOCAL CDU LINE) FOR DEALING WITH THE
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PAGE 02 STUTTG 01767 251411Z

PROBLEM. THUS THE DEBATE AND ASSESSMENT OF BLAME RATHER THAN
SOLIDARITY, PROCEEDS. END SUMMARY.

2. AT THE BADEN-WUERTTEMBERG CDU CONGRESS AT OFFENBURG OCTO-
BER 21-22 THE PARTY CLOSED RANKS AROUND MINISTER PRESIDENT
FILBEINGER IN THE FACE OF SEVERE PUBLIC CRITICISM OF THE CDU
LAND GOVERNMENT'S HANDLING OF IMPRISONED TERRORISTS, WHICH

IS NOW BEING REFERRED TO AS THE STAMMHEIM PRISON SCANDALS AND WHICH HAD BROUGHT ABOUT RESIGNATION OF B-W JUSTICE MINISTER TRAUOGOTT BENDER (STUTTGART 1758). AS THE LOCAL PRESS PUT IT, "IN THE HOUR OF HIS (FILBINGER'S GREATEST NEED, HELMUT KOLH came to stand by his side." LOthAR SPAETH, ELECTED DEPUTY CHAIRMAN OF THE B-W PARTY ORGANIZATION, ALSO OFFERED STRONG SUPPORT AND FENDED OFF EMBARRASSING QUESTIONS FROM THE CRITICAL MEDIA. THE PARTY REELECTED CHAIRMAN FILBINGER WITH A LARGER MAJORITY THAN AT THE LAST CONGRESS. RESIGNED MINISTER BENDER WAS REELECTED TO THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE WITH THE LARGEST MAJORITY OF ALL (364 OF 386).

3. IN HIS SPEECH INVOKING SOLIDARITY, FILBINGER CLAIMED THAT "A CAMPAIGN IS UNDERWAY AGAINST THE LAND (BADEN-WUERTTEMBERG) AND THIS CDU." IN AN AGGRESSIVE COUNTERATTACK HE CHARGED THAT "OTHERS (BONN SPD/FDP COALITION) ARE TO BLAME FOR THE ESCALATION OF TERROR." FEDERAL CDU CHAIRMAN KOHL TOOK OVER THE REFRAIN, STRONGLY ENDORSING FILBINGER'S REELECTION AS LAND CHAIRMAN WITH THE WORDS, "HANS, YOU REALLY DESERVE THIS (ELECTION) RESULT." HE THEN REINFORCED THE LOCAL CDU ATTACK ON "THE OTHERS" WHO HAD CRITICIZED THE FILBINGER GOVERNMENT IN CONNECTION WITH THE TERRORISTS' SUICIDES AT STAMMHEIM BUT "WHO THEMSELVES HAVE BEEN CLEARLY DILATORY IN DEALING WITH THE TERRORIST SITUATION."

4. KOHL VIGOROUSLY ITERATED CDU RECOMMENDATIONS FOR DEALING LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 STUTTG 01767 251411Z

WITH TERRORISTS -- SUGGESTIONS RIGHT OUT OF THE LOCAL CDU BOOK (STUTTGART A-106). THESE INCLUDED MONITORING OF PRISONERS' CONVERSATIONS WITH THEIR LAWYERS, SHORTENING THE DURATION OF THE TRIALS, AND KEEPING TERRORISTS "IN A SECURE SITUATION" AFTER COMPLETION OF THEIR PRISON TERMS (SICHERUNGSVERWAHRUNG FUER TERRORISTEN NACH VERBUESSUNG IHRER STRAFHAFT.) HE, LIKE THE B-W GOVERNMENT, ALSO POINTED TO THE NECESSITY FOR "DRYING UP THE SPIRITUAL MORASS OF THE TERRORIST SCENE AT UNIVERSITIES."

5. IF THE AGGRESSIVE CDU STANCE TAKEN AT OFFENBURG IS ANY INDICATION, THE LOCAL AND NATIONAL DEBATE ON DEALING WITH TERRORISM AND EXTREMISTS IS ONLY BEGINNING. IT IS A FAR CRY FROM THE COOL SOLIDARITY WITH WHICH THE "DRISENSTAB" DEALT WITH THE LUFTHANSA SKYJACKERS AND THE SCHLEYER KIDNAPPING. AS EACH DAY TURNS UP A NEW CACHE IN ONE OF ANOTHER OF THE TERRORIST CELLS AT STAMMHEIM (THE PISTOLS, COMMUNICATION WIRING, PLASTIC EXPLOSIVE, AND NOW RAZOR BLADES AND A STOMACH TESTING TUBE) THE LOCAL PRESS REMAINS CRITICAL, WITH THE FINGER POINTED PRINCIPALLY AT INTERIOR MINISTER SCHIESS AND MINISTER PRESIDENT FILBINGER.

6. OBVIOUSLY THE LOCAL CDU, WITH ITS CONFORTABLE 57 PERCENT MAJORITY IN THE B-W LANDTAG, INTENDS TO STAND FAST. BUT ADDITIONAL NUANCES HAVE BEEN INTRODUCED. FILBINGER HAS BEEN PROVIDED BADLY NEEDED SUPPORT BY FEDERAL CDU CHAIRMAN KOHL AND LOCAL LANDTAG FACTION CHAIRMAN SPAETH. BOTH "AS "LIBERALS", HAVE DIFFERED WITH HIM IN THE PAST ON A NUMBER OF ISSUES, INCLUDING DEALING WITH "RADICALS" AND THE FEASIBILITY OF AN EVENTUAL COALITION WITH THE FDP. FILBINGER HAS NEVER COMMITTED HIMSELF REALLY TO WORKING CLOSELY WITH EITHER ONE OF THEM. NOW, KOHL AND SPAETH (THE SELF-STYLED B-W LINK TO KOHL) ARE PROVIDING SUCCOR, AND AT THE SAME TIME ARE OSTENSIBLY MOVING TOWARDS HIS "SOUTHERN" END OF THE POLITICAL SPECTRUM, AT LEAST ON THE ISSUES OF DEALING WITH RADICALS AND TERRORISTS. ONE WONDERS WHAT KOHL EXPECTS IN RETURN FROM A MAN WHOSE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 04 STUTTG 01767 251411Z

ACTIVE SUPPORT HE HAS NOT HAD IN THE PAST. IS IT POSSIBLE THAT UNITY AT OFFENBURG ON THE ISSUES OF "DEALING WITH TERRORISTS, EXTREMISTS AND THE MORASS AT THE UNIVERSITIES" REFLECTS A SHIFT IN THE TACTICS OF KOHL? IS IT IN PART TO DEVELOP A BROADER BASIS OF SUPPORT HIMSELF BY FINDING ADDITIONAL COMMON DENOMINATORS WITH THE TOUGHER, GO-IT-ALONE CDU/CSU SOUTHERN WING -- BEFORE IT GIVES UP ON HIM AND TURNS TO OTHER CDU HOPEFULS, LIKE DREGGER?

7. IF SO, IT COULD RAISE THE QUESTION WHETHER SUCH A TOUGHER POLITICAL INE, WHEN COMBINED WITH THE SYMBOLIC MESS OF THE STAMMHEIM SUICIDES, WOULD ENHANCE THE GERMAN IMAGE IN NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES.

JENKINS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PARTY MEETINGS, TERRORISTS, DEATHS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 25-Oct-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Executive Order: N/A
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Expiration:
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Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19771024/aaaaaufn.tel
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TAGS: PINS, PINT, GE, CDU, (FILBINGER, HANS)
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